

Application No.: 10/773,447**Docket No.: 713-1058****AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:***On page 1 after the title, please insert the following header:***--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--***On page 2 before line 1, please insert the following header:***--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--***Please delete the paragraph on page 2 beginning at line 1 in its entirety.**Please amend the paragraph on page 2, beginning at line 2 as follows:*

In order to avoid this disadvantage, the invention provides ~~To this end, the invention relates first of all to a strip of fasteners for a fastening apparatus with a loading device intended to take the strip, each fastener comprising a shank pointed at one end and bearing a head at the other end, the fasteners being engaged respectively via their shanks in guide pegs joined together into a string before they are transferred, one by one, from the loading device into the apparatus, in the firing position, the strip being characterized in that at least one of the guide pegs at the end of the string comprises support means designed to prevent it from tilting as it is transferred from the loading device into the apparatus.~~

*On page 3 after line 8, please insert the following header:***--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--***On page 3 after line 19, please insert the following header:***--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--**